



Conservation Internship Program

Looking for an opportunity to gain real-world conservation experience? Highstead Foundation is currently recruiting for remote Conservation Interns for the fall 2022 Semester. Applications must be submitted by July 18, 2022. The Conservation Interns will support Highstead's Conservation Program for a twelve-week period from September 19, 2022, to December 9, 2022. Interns will receive a stipend of \$6,500 and **will work remotely during the entirety of the internship.**

Highstead is a regional non-profit conservation organization dedicated to inspiring curiosity and building knowledge about plants and wooded landscapes in order to enhance life, preserve nature, and advance sound stewardship practices. We envision a healthier, more livable world for all by working with our partners to responsibly conserve the land that sustains us and to steward our natural spaces, resources, and communities thoughtfully and inclusively. Highstead is undergoing a journey to become a more diverse, equitable and just organization, and our interns will be invited to participate in this work with us.

Highstead's principal conservation programs include catalyzing the land protection activities of partners through Regional Conservation Partnerships, conservation finance, ecological research, policy analysis, and land stewardship.

The Conservation Internship Program is recruiting for three positions:

- **Conservation GIS**
- **Conservation Communications and Events**
- **Conservation Finance & Policy Research**

What you'll gain from us:

- Practical workplace experience in conservation, including projects that will enhance your resume
- Introductions to others in the conservation field and opportunities to network virtually
- An opportunity to learn, grow, ask questions
- Time and space to develop your personal portfolio
- A chance to participate in our ongoing diversity, equity and justice journey

What we need from you:

- A recent Bachelor's or Master's Degree or equivalent lived experience
- A passion for the environment, biodiversity, land use or climate science
- The skills outlined in the specific job description below
- Curiosity, ingenuity, perseverance, teamwork, problem-solving skills
- A collaborative spirit who enjoys both independent and group work
- Access to a reliable network connection

How to Apply:

Apply by sending your resume and a cover letter by email to [Jody Cologgi](mailto:jody@highstead.org). **Please put the specific Conservation Intern title in the subject.** In your cover letter, please provide an example of at least two of the following:

- Your conservation interest/commitment
- How you have used creativity, ingenuity and/or perseverance to solve a problem
- How you have demonstrated teamwork in a past job or volunteer role

Please submit one PDF document containing all application materials.

1) Conservation GIS Intern:

Overview: The Conservation GIS Intern will work with Highstead's Conservationists to advance conservation in the region by bringing their writing, researching, and mapping skills to our conservation programs. Interns will work on mapping projects across two or more of the following initiatives. Some examples include:

- [Northeast Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative](#)- Assist Regional Conservation Partnerships and Audubon chapters in the production of mapping projects and analyses to support landscape-scale bird habitat conservation in the northeast.
- [Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership \(H2H\)](#)- Support activities related to land protection planning and community engagement, including mapping urban assets and conservation values within the H2H region.
- **Northern Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership**- Support a developing partnership of organizations working in the landscape surrounding the Appalachian Trail corridor with various activities including mapping to support fundraising, partner outreach, and administration.
- **Provide GIS Support to new RCPs**- Produce GIS maps to help new RCPs across New England identify their partnership's boundaries and priority landscapes.

Qualifications:

- Proficient in use of ESRI products such as ArcMap, ArcCatalog, and ArcGIS Online, to collect, analyze, and manipulate data, and create maps.
- Knowledge of cartographic principles for professional map layout and design.
- Working knowledge of data availability and sources.
- Effective verbal and written communication skills and ability to convey work to a variety of audiences through written materials, presentations and at meetings.

We encourage candidates with at least 70% of these qualifications to apply.

2) Conservation Communications and Events Intern:

Overview: The Conservation Communications and Events Intern will work with Highstead's Conservationists and staff to advance conservation in the region by bringing their event planning, writing, research, and communication skills to our conservation programs. A major focus for this position will be the support, organization, and administration of the virtual [Regional Conservation Partnership \(RCP\) Network Gathering](#) Program, a conference for over 300 regional conservation practitioners. The Communication and Events Intern will also work on two or more of the following projects:

- **RCP Network Communications:** Work with communications and conservation staff to develop content for e-newsletters, social media, and websites in support of the RCP Network.
- **RCP Spotlight Story Series-** Develop a series of stories on the activities of specific RCPs that align with the steps to RCP success as outlined in the [RCP Handbook](#). These stories, to be posted on various websites, social media platforms, and e-news editions, will help illustrate best practices.
- **Northeast Forest Network-** Assist the planning committee with the development and launch of their communication assets and toolkits and in the development of a regional coordinated communication network designed to increase resources for forest conservation across the Northeast.

Qualifications:

- Must be proficient in Microsoft Suite, specifically Excel and Publisher. Knowledge of WordPress is a plus.
- Firm grasp of available tools and platforms in the social media space and experience creating and posting content in support of organizational goals.
- Excellent and effective verbal and written communication skills and ability to convey work to a variety of audiences through email, presentations, meetings, and in online formats.
- Experience with event planning and implementation.
- Ability to synthesize information - strong analytical skills, and experience collecting, interpreting and organizing data for audiences.

We encourage candidates with at least 70% of these qualifications to apply.

3) Conservation Finance & Policy Research Intern:

Overview: The Conservation Finance and Policy Research Intern will work with Highstead's Conservationists and staff to advance conservation in the region by bringing their writing, research, and communication skills to our Conservation Finance program. Interested candidates can expect to conduct research and policy analyses, assist with the writing and editing of conservation finance reports and communications materials, and collaborate with various Highstead partners and networks. The Conservation Finance and Policy Intern will work on two or more of the following projects:

- [Sebago Clean Waters](#)- Develop a brief and visually compelling synopsis of a 2018 University of Maine economic impact study conducted for Sebago Clean Waters. This resource will demonstrate how land conservation is positively affecting community vitality and economics.
- [Economic Case Study Series](#)- Research and write one case study to expand the series showcasing the conservation initiatives of towns and communities across the rural/urban gradient and the resulting economic benefits, including reducing health care costs, increasing employment, and stimulating economic development. The case studies will be shared broadly with conservation organizations, municipalities, policy makers, and community leaders to encourage further uptake of conservation practices throughout New England.
- **The Natural Climate Solution Opportunities in New England Report**- Assist the Conservation Finance Program with research and development of informational sessions detailing the funding and finance mechanisms available for implementation of the five natural climate solutions pathways within the report.

Qualifications:

- Excellent and effective verbal and written communication skills and ability to convey work to a variety of audiences through presentations, meetings, and in online formats.
- Ability to synthesize information - strong analytical skills, and experience collecting, interpreting and organizing data.
- Must be computer literate and proficient in Excel.

We encourage candidates with at least 70% of these qualifications to apply.